



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5416

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS
ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) There is established a
2 Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council that shall consist of the
3 following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture; (2) the state
4 veterinarian; (3) four appointed by the Governor, as follows: (A) One
5 who shall have knowledge of food safety and food safety regulation in
6 the state, (B) one who shall be from a state-wide organization that
7 represents the beef industry, (C) one who shall be licensed in the state
8 as a livestock or poultry veterinarian, and (D) one who shall represent
9 the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at The University of
10 Connecticut; (4) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
11 Senate, as follows: (A) One who shall be a representative of the state
12 slaughter industry, and (B) one who shall be a representative of a state
13 livestock dealer, a hauler or the auction industry; (5) two appointed by
14 the speaker of the House of Representatives, as follows: (A) One who
15 shall be a producer of species other than bovidae, and (B) one who
16 shall be an operator of a medium or large farm licensed by the
17 Department of Agriculture; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of
18 the Senate who shall be a professional in the care and management of
19 equines and equine facilities; (7) one appointed by the minority leader
20 of the Senate who shall be the operator of a small dairy farm in this

21 state; (8) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
22 Representatives who shall be a representative of a national, nonprofit
23 animal welfare organization with farm animal expertise; (9) one
24 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who
25 shall be experienced in investigating charges of animal cruelty
26 involving livestock, provided such person has not received any
27 compensation from any national humane society or organization for
28 such investigatory work; and (10) one appointed by the cochairpersons
29 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
30 cognizance of matters relating to the environment who shall be a
31 representative of the Future Farmers of America. Each appointed
32 member shall serve for a term of three years from the date of his or her
33 appointment. No appointed member shall serve for more than two
34 terms. No member shall receive compensation for his or her service on
35 the advisory council.

36 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall serve as the chairperson
37 of the advisory council. The advisory council shall meet at such times
38 as the chairperson determines is necessary, provided the advisory
39 council meets not less than once per calendar year and the first
40 meeting of the advisory council occurs not later than ninety days after
41 the effective date of this section. A quorum shall be required for the
42 advisory council to conduct business. Eight members of the advisory
43 council shall constitute a quorum. The advisory council shall be
44 located in the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes
45 only.

46 (c) The advisory council shall have the following duties: (1) Conduct
47 a review and evaluation of state laws applicable to the care and
48 handling of livestock; (2) submit policy recommendations, including,
49 but not limited to, legislative recommendations, to the Commissioner
50 of Agriculture concerning the care and handling of livestock. In
51 performing such review and evaluation, the advisory council shall
52 consider the following: (A) The overall health and welfare of livestock
53 species, (B) agricultural best management practices, (C) biosecurity

54 and disease prevention, (D) animal morbidity and mortality data, (E)
55 food safety practices, (F) the protection of local and affordable food
56 supplies for state residents, and (G) humane transport and slaughter
57 practices; and (3) submit a recommendation to the joint standing
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
59 relating to the environment concerning the need to regulate the
60 tethering or confining of gestating sows by farm owners or operators.
61 Concomitant with the submission of any recommendation to the
62 Commissioner of Agriculture, the advisory council shall submit,
63 pursuant to section 11-4a of the general statutes, such recommendation
64 to the joint committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
65 matters relating to agriculture. The advisory council may engage in
66 outreach and education activities related to state laws concerning the
67 care and handling of livestock.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*